



Senator Pam Roach

31st DISTRICT REPORT

SPRING 2005

PIERCE COUNTY EDITION

From the Senator's Desk

Dear Friends,

It is a great honor and privilege to represent you in Olympia. I am working hard on issues that affect us here at home.

This session we passed House Bill 2266, tough new legislation to cut access to the precursor drugs used to make methamphetamine. Pierce County has a serious meth problem. I pushed for the toughest version of the bill and played a pivotal role in making sure the bill passed.

I also continue to work with law enforcement and other community groups to reduce meth use. Please plan on attending my "Death to Meth" town meeting on June 2 at the Bonney Lake Fire Station. We need to protect family members from being drawn in to this insidious addiction. We need to know how to identify meth labs and meth addicts.

In addition, I led the effort to implement performance audits in state government. There was a great deal of resistance. Only a watered-down bill eventually passed. I believe the elected state auditor who is accountable to the people and independent from the executive branch should be responsible for auditing state government.

While many good things were accomplished, it was one of the most difficult sessions in memory. Our state budget, with new tax increases, swelled 12 percent. I voted "No" on what every newspaper in the state dubbed an unsustainable budget. Focusing on the good, I want to thank you for the support you have given me as I work to provide a government more responsive to the will of the people.

Sincerely,

Pam Roach
State Senator

For up-to-date information, please
sign up for my e-mail newsletter.
E-mail me at roach.pam@leg.wa.gov



Contact Information

Olympia Office:

202 Irv Newhouse Building
P.O. Box 40431
Olympia, WA 98504-0431
(360) 786-7660
E-mail: roach.pam@leg.wa.gov

Web site:

[www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/SRC/
Senators/Roach.htm](http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/SRC/Senators/Roach.htm)

District Office:

P.O. Box 650
Auburn, WA 98071
(253) 735-4210

Toll-free Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

**Telecommunications Device for
the Deaf (TTY):** (800) 635-9993

Internet Information:

www.leg.wa.gov
www.src.wa.gov

Committees:

- Government Operations and Elections, ranking member
- Ways and Means
- International Trade and Economic Development

New legislative assistant to Sen. Pam Roach

Since starting in January, Joe Smith has diligently handled constituent phone calls, managed Sen. Roach's busy schedule and assisted citizens through the legislative process. "It has been a great opportunity to help others," Joe said. "I look forward to helping serve the people of the district."

Joe is a political science graduate from the University of Washington. For the last eight years, he has worked in various industries providing excellent customer service and shown an innate ability to solve problems. In addition, he briefly worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce and participated in the Washington State Senate Intern program.

"Joe is a great asset to my office and to the citizens of our district," Roach said. "But, even though I have a legislative assistant, district residents can still call me directly at (253) 735-4210 or e-mail me at roach.pam@leg.wa.gov."



Joe Smith, legislative assistant to Sen. Pam Roach, is a graduate from the University of Washington. He and his wife spent time in Thailand delivering humanitarian aid.

Meet with Sen. Roach

June 2

- Live Chat: Bonney Lake Fire Station 5 p.m.
- "Death to Meth" Meeting: Bonney Lake Fire Station 7:30 p.m.

July 4

- Starbucks in Enumclaw 4 p.m. before parade

Senator Pam Roach



Widening of SR 410 East to 234th Ave East will be completed by Fall 2008.

Transportation Update

Transportation budget hurts families

Only two years after implementing a 5-cent gas tax increase, the Legislature decided to pass another 9.5-cent gas tax increase this year.

Dubbed the “Transportation Partnership” fund, this \$7.8 billion package has a gas tax increase, a new vehicle gross weight fee and an increase in licensing fees. Roughly \$7 billion will go toward highway construction while around \$800 million is allocated to rail, public transportation and freight mobility.

Even though Sen. Roach was able to add her performance audit language to the bill and advocate for several important transportation projects in the 31st legislative district, she finally voted against the transportation package because of its inequitable distribution of money to the Seattle area and the inclusion of several questionable appropriations.

“I am troubled that nearly half of the funding for highway construction is allocated to the Alaskan Way viaduct, the SR 520 floating bridge, and I-405,” Roach said. “Additionally, I could not in good conscience support funding some of the “pet projects” like flexcar subsidization (a car-sharing program for Seattle residents) and electric bus purchases for Capitol Hill.”

“It’s a difficult balancing act. We need to fix delays on SR 410, but at what cost to the family? My hope is that

my performance audit amendment will reveal government waste and allow us to reallocate money to better serve your needs.”

I voted “No” on the new 9.5-cent gas tax increase. With pump prices at \$2.50/gallon, this is not the time to raise our taxes to help Seattle.

What it will cost you:

Vehicles	Average driving	Additional taxes and fees
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ford TaurusJeep Grand CherokeeNissan pickup	- 15,000 miles yearly at 20 mpg	\$81.25 annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ford ExpeditionToyota pickupDodge Half-Ton pickup	- 15,000 miles yearly at 15 mpg	\$105 annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ford E-350 Super Club WagonFord 3/4 Crew Cab	- 15,000 miles yearly at 10 mpg	\$173 annually

Projects in our district

Of the \$7.8 billion to be spent on state projects, \$149 million (1.91%) is allocated for projects in our district.

- **SR 167 Hot Lane Pilot Project** – Creates a High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane to evaluate its effectiveness
- **SR 167/SR 410 to 15th Avenue HOV** – Adds an HOV lane
- **SR 167/SR 410 to Pierce/King County Line Median Crossing** – Installs new cable guardrail in the median to reduce cross over accidents (very dangerous for motorcycles)
- **SR 169-SE 416th Revamping Intersection** – Adjusts intersection to improve traffic flow
- **SR 410 White River** – Addresses severe bed aggradations problems that are forcing the White River on to and down SR 410, which requires frequent fixes
- **SR 410/214th Ave E to 234th Widening** – Builds two additional lanes along this section of road
- **SR 164, SR 169, SR 410, SR 525, SR 900 and SR 520 Roadside Safety Improvements** – Improves roadside safety features to reduce severity of accidents
- **8th Street East UP Railroad Undercrossing** – Improves traffic conditions at railroad crossing
- **M Street SE Grade Separation Project** – Relieves traffic congestion at railroad crossing

31st Legislatave District

Election Reform bills that passed the Legislature for 2005:

ESSB 5395 – Paper trails on electronic voting machines: Protects against voter fraud by ensuring a paper record is made of all votes on an electronic voting machine.

SB 5564 – Manual of election laws: Requires the Secretary of State to prepare and distribute an easy-to-understand manual dealing with vote counting, recounting, tabulation and canvassing in order to help clarify and inform voters about the election process.

SB 5565 – Out-of-state voters' info: Helps out-of-state, overseas and service voters know their rights and understand how to best vote by including the information either on the ballot envelop or on a separate sheet of paper.

ESSB 5743 – Voter registration: Addresses issues raised by the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA):

- Identification other than photo ID is allowed at the polls. These alternatives include: a current utility bill, bank statement, or paycheck. Voters without any identification will be given a provisional ballot.
- Proof of citizenship is not required to register to vote, but all state agencies that assist in voter registration must ask the applicant if he or she is at least 18 years old and if he or she is a U.S. citizen as required in the constitution.
- Convicted felons must sign a statement acknowledging they have lost their right to vote and their voter registration will be canceled until their rights are restored.
- The Secretary of State shall compare the voter registration database with those maintained by the state Department of Health, the Washington State Patrol and the Office of the Administrator of the Courts to check for deaths and felony convictions.

Stay Informed on District Issues:

Interested in efforts to improve the business climate?

Trying to protect your property from unfair regulations?

Sign up for Sen. Roach's e-newsletter to stay involved in the legislative process. Send an e-mail to roach.pam@leg.wa.gov and you'll be added to the list!

Roach's performance audits added in transportation package

Sen. Pam Roach led the Senate Republican Caucus's effort to implement performance audits on state government. Ultimately, her language was used for a performance audit amendment added to the transportation budget. The state auditor now has the authority to conduct performance audits in transportation-related agencies.

"I expect audits to reveal where needless project costs can be transformed into practical expenditures. We must work to make our commutes safer and more efficient. And, do it in a more cost effective way," Roach said. "One of the best ways to improve the efficiency of government is to have an independent review. The state auditor is fully qualified and will do a great job."

Buckley National Guard Armory not effected

By special invitation of Governor Gregoire, I joined her and leaders from our base communities at a press conference on May 10.

We made it very clear. We are proud of our combined efforts in lobbying the Department of Defense to keep our bases open. We wanted to keep all major bases and expand the number of military personnel in Washington State. And, now we know that this was accomplished!

While five auxiliary installations were closed, I am happy to report that the Buckley National Guard installation will remain open.

During the summer of 2003, then chair of the Senate Committee on Governmental Operations, I led a series of legislative base tours. Early on, we worked with base communities and urged them to step forward and join us in saving our bases. The response was tremendous.

Nationwide, the U.S. Department of Defense will continue to reduce the number of bases. And, we will continue our unified effort. We will again stress our strategic locations, unique contributions, and local sup-



Soldiers at Fort Lewis. Photo by Jason Kaye.

port for military personnel as key factors in the need to keep our bases open. Closure would have severe economic impacts on base communities.

I will continue to protect the best interests of the United States and Washington by making sure our bases remain.

**Senator Roach serves on the Executive Board of the Joint Select Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs. She is the wife of a veteran.*



Senator Pam Roach

P.O. Box 40431
Olympia, WA 98504-0431



"Death to Meth" Town Meeting

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Sen. Pam Roach at a previous Death to Meth district meeting.

Senator Pam Roach **"Death to Meth"** **Town Meeting**

Local problems need local solutions

Please join me, along with:

Dave Dewey, *Detective Sergeant, Pierce County*
Mark Lindquist, *Deputy Prosecutor, Pierce County*
Helen Myrick, *Legislative Chair, Pierce County*
Citizen Action Team

Date: Thursday, June 2, 2005

Time: 7:30 p.m.

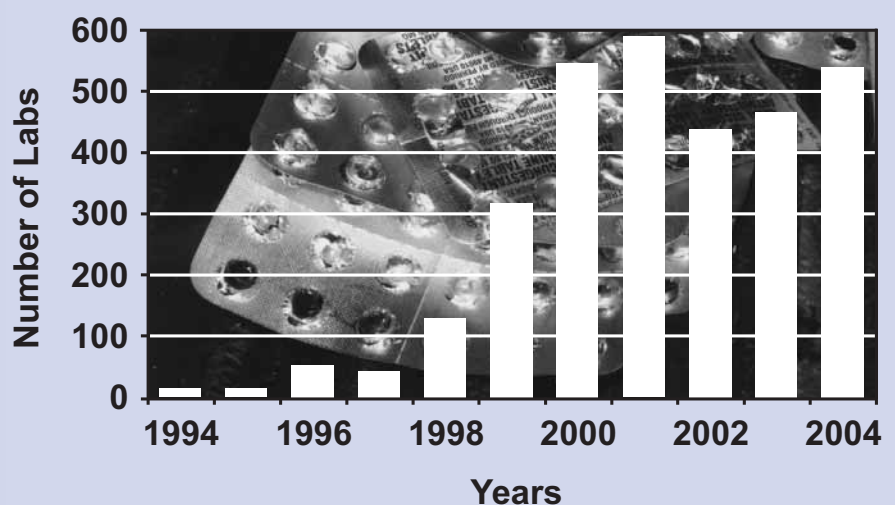
Location: Bonney Lake Fire Station

Address: 18421 Old Buckley Highway, Bonney Lake

Over the last few years, penalties have increased. More enforcement officers have been employed. And yet, we still have a serious meth problem.

Last year alone, 542 meth labs were found in Pierce County. Please join me in a neighborhood effort to rid our area of meth production and addiction.

Meth Labs found in Pierce County



Backdrop is Sudafed package found at a Pierce County meth lab.

For more information, please call my office at (360) 786-7660 or e-mail directly at roach.pam@leg.wa.gov.